

PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2014

First Selectman's Office

Town of Ellington

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Ellington Wall of Honor Inductee

Rachel Lee Wheeler-Rossow 1939-2013

At the July 21, 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Rachel Wheeler-Rossow was selected to be inducted to the Ellington Wall of Honor.

Rachel Wheeler-Rossow lived in Ellington from 1970 until her death in 2013. She was deeply involved in her community serving on the Board of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and as the Chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee.

She dedicated her life to helping people less fortunate. As President and co-founder of Alpha and Omega, Inc., she raised and cared for more than 50 children and adults born with seriously challenging conditions.

Rachel was recognized for her work by President Ronald Regan at a White House reception in 1983. She also was awarded the following:

- 1980 First Outstanding Alumni Award, *Salve Regina College, Newport RI*
- 1980 Excellence in Social Justice Actions Award, *United Methodist Church New England*
- 1981 Special Award, *Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens*
- 1982 & 1983 Connecticut's Woman of the Year, *Ladies Auxilliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- 1982 Cyrus G. Flanders Award for Dedicated Services
- 1984 Living Commitment to Children Award, *Odyssey Institute, NY*
- 1986 Dedicated Service to Children of Connecticut Award, *Connecticut Council on Adoption*
- 1989 Humanitarian Service Award for contributions in providing care for individuals and families suffering from the effects of HIV infections and AIDS, *United States Office of Human Development Services*
- 1990 Family of the Year Award, *Catholic Charities*
- 1990 Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award, *Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services*
- 1991 National Caring Award, *Caring Institute of Washington, DC*
- 1992 National and Connecticut Jefferson Awards, *American Institute for Public Service*

A formal induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the site of the wall located in Arbor Park at Arbor Way [off of Main Street]. The public is invited to attend.